

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6-24, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~use with assemble~~ assembling and disassembling tubulars, comprising:

joining a first tubular engaged by a top drive to a second tubular engaged by a spider, thereby forming a joint therebetween;

collecting data related to the formation of the joint;

comparing the data to preprogrammed values using a controller;

collecting data from the top drive and the spider via sensors to determine if they are engaging the tubulars;

opening the spider when predetermined conditions are met;

lowering the tubular string through the spider;

engaging the tubular string with the spider; and

disengaging the tubular string with the top drive when predetermined conditions are met.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~where in~~ wherein collecting data related to the formation of the joint ~~further~~ comprises collecting data ~~relating~~ related to torque applied.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting data related to the formation of the joint ~~further~~ comprises collecting data ~~relating~~ related to revolutions completed.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting data related to the formation of the joint ~~further~~ comprises collecting data ~~relating~~ related to axial movement.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting data related to the formation of the joint further comprises collecting data relating related to torque and revolutions.

6-24. Cancelled.

Please add the following new claims:

25. (New) A method of connecting tubulars, comprising:
closing a gripping member around a first tubular;
engaging a second gripping member of a top drive to a second tubular;
moving the second tubular to a well center;
threading the second tubular to the first tubular to form a joint and thereby a tubular string;
transmitting data from the second gripping member to a controller;
ensuring the second gripping member is engaged with the tubular string;
opening the first gripping member;
lowering the tubular string through the first gripping member;
closing the first gripping member around the tubular string; and
disengaging the second gripping member from the tubular string.
26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein closing a first gripping member around a first tubular further comprises locking the first gripping member in the closed position and sending a signal to the controller that the first gripping member is in the closed position.
27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein transmitting data comprises transmitting tubular rotation data on making up the joint.
28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the second gripping member includes a counter for collecting tubular rotation data on making up the joint.

29. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the second gripping member includes a torque sub for collecting data on torque generated in the tubular joint.
30. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein transmitting data comprises transmitting data on torque generated in the tubular joint.
31. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein engaging the second gripping member to the second tubular comprises engaging an inner surface of the second tubular.
32. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein engaging the second gripping member to the second tubular comprises engaging an outer surface of the tubular.
33. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein ensuring the second gripping member is engaged with the tubular string comprises sending a signal to the controller that the second gripping member is engaged to the tubular string.
34. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the controller is preprogrammed with acceptable values of the joint.
35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein ensuring the second gripping member is engaged with the tubular string comprises comparing the data with the acceptable values of the joint.
36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein if the data is within acceptable values then controller sends a signal to the second gripping member to lock in the engaged position, and sends another signal to the first gripping member to unlock.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein if the data is not within acceptable values then the first gripping member remains locked and a signal is sent to an operator to rethread the joint.

38. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein closing the first gripping member around the tubular string includes sending a signal from the first gripping member to the controller.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein if the signal from the first gripping member is received by the controller, the controller then sends the signal to the second gripping member to unlock.

40. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein disengaging the second gripping member from the tubular string includes sending a signal from the controller to the first gripping member to lock.

41. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the second gripping member further comprises a compensator.

42. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein transmitting data from the second gripping member to the controller includes transmitting data from the compensator to indicate that the second gripping member is engaged to the tubular string.

43. (New) A method of connecting tubulars, comprising:
closing a first member around a first tubular;
engaging a second member to a second tubular;
moving the second tubular to a well center;
threading the second tubular to the first tubular to form a joint and thereby a tubular string;
sending data from the second member to a controller, the second member having a counter that relays data relating to tubular rotations making up the joint;

- opening the first member;
lowering the tubular string through the first member;
closing the first member around the tubular string; and
disengaging the second member from the tubular string.
44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the second member further includes a torque sub adapted to measure torque data on the tubular joint.
45. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising transmitting the torque data to the controller.
46. (New) A method of connecting tubulars, comprising:
closing a first member around a first tubular;
engaging a second member to a second tubular;
moving the second tubular to a well center;
threading the second tubular to the first tubular to form a joint and thereby a tubular string;
sending data from the second member to a controller, wherein the controller is preprogrammed with acceptable values of the joint;
opening the first member;
lowering the tubular string through the first member;
closing the first member around the tubular string; and
disengaging the second member from the tubular string.
47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein sending data from the second member to the controller comprises comparing the data with the acceptable values of the joint.
48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein if the data is within acceptable values then controller sends a signal to the second member to lock in the engaged position, and sends another signal to the first member to unlock.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein if the data is not within acceptable parameters then the first member remains locked and a signal is sent to an operator to rethread the joint.

50. (New) A method of connecting tubulars, comprising:
closing a first member around a first tubular;
engaging a second member to a second tubular, wherein second member comprises a compensator;
moving the second tubular to a well center;
threading the second tubular to the first tubular to form a joint and thereby a tubular string;
sending data from the compensator to a controller to indicate that the second member is engaged with the tubular string;
opening the first member;
lowering the tubular string through the first member;
closing the first member around the tubular string; and
disengaging the second member from the tubular string.